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Sociological Developments Within Czechoslovakia During 1951
and Their Effect on the Standard of Living

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[] This document contains only well-known information, presumably from overt sources. All the information of any significance is summarized below.

1. Chapter one discusses the rise in the standard of living and in the purchasing power of the population of the once backward region of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, as follows: This area has become the seat of a new industrial combine, which is now under construction [Zdar] and the total of its per capita income has risen to 300 million crowns per year in 1950. Schools are being added rapidly to the growing community in this area and there is a substantial rise in the number of health centers. Infant mortality has decreased by 50 percent and the number of deaths from other major causes is on the decline. Some 14,800,000 persons travelled on busses during 1951. The 69 existing cultural centers are to be supplemented by an additional 80; these are to be made available by remodeling former inns.

2. Chapter two discusses improved conditions in child care and education in Prague, as follows: Increases in the number of schools are shown and the number of registered students attending schools of all types has risen sharply. Some 1,500 school children a month are sent to the country to enjoy life in the open air, accompanied by their teachers, at the expense of the People's Administration. School kitchens have provided meals for a record number of 18,000 children. Fruit and other specialized commodities are supplied to children on a priority basis. Last summer, some 32,000 children attended official summer vacation camps, sponsored by the Government. Infant mortality has dropped from 170 deaths per thousand live births in 1920, to 35 deaths per thousand live births during 1951.

3. Chapter three shows the benefits reaped by the population of Czechoslovakia from the increased production of its industries. Consumption of lard rose by 26 percent over 1950, consumption of butter by 23 percent, of sugar by 8 percent, of synthetic shortenings by 8 percent, of tea by 19 percent, of candy by 20 percent, of vegetables by 26 percent. Textile sales were up 16 percent over 1950 and the turnover in the ready-to-wear and shoe industries about 12 percent. Some 12 percent more persons were communally fed. The number of nursery schools providing day and night care, has

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virtually doubled. About 4.5 percent more theaters were opened for use and broadcasting licenses increased by 5.3 percent during 1950. The number of books published rose by 28 percent.

4. Chapter four deals with development in Slovakia. In this sector, increased book sales totaled 480 million crowns in value and were credited to a rise in popular interest in literature due to new, progressive cultural trends.

5. Chapter five discusses the State Budget for Czechoslovakia for 1952 and shows anticipated revenue as well as expenditure figures. Some allocations are also discussed.

Note: More complete information of the type discussed in the above chapters is available in the Czechoslovak Economic Bulletin, which is a bi-weekly, English-language publication of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Trade, and published in Prague.]

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